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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/576,844	04/20/2006	Hiroyuki Matsuoka	59138US004	7469
32692	7590	08/02/2007	EXAMINER	
3M INNOVATIVE PROPERTIES COMPANY			VU, HIEN D	
PO BOX 33427			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
ST. PAUL, MN 55133-3427			2833	
NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE			
08/02/2007	ELECTRONIC			

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/576,844	MATSUOKA
	Examiner Hien D. Vu	Art Unit 2833

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claim 7 is objected to because on lines 2-4, the features "said contact section of ... of points simultaneously" are unclear since such features are not clearly shown in the drawings.
2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

3. (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 1-2,5-6 and 8-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Miyazaki (7220146).

Miyazaki, Figs. 1-6 show a connector 1 comprising: a terminal element 17 including a conductor-connecting section 171f,172 connectable with a conductor 302 of an electric wire 300 and a contact section 171r capable of coming into conductive contact with a corresponding terminal element of a counterpart connector 2 ; an electrically insulating body 7 for supporting said terminal element while exposing said conductor-connecting section and said contact section, an abutting member 9 assembled with said body to bring the conductor of the wire into abutment with said conductor-connecting section of said terminal element under pressure, said body includes a fitting portion 11 capable of fitting to the counterpart connector while positioning said contact section of said terminal element with respect to the corresponding terminal element, said conductor-connecting section and said contact

section of said terminal element are arranged to be aligned with each other in a direction intersecting a connector fitting direction determined by said fitting portion.

As to claim 2, Miyazaki show the body including a wire-holding section 11 for locating the wire on a backside of said fitting portion as seen in said connector fitting direction, said connector fitting direction intersects an extending direction of the wire on said body, said extending direction defined by said wire-holding portion.

As to claim 7, Miyazaki shows the contact section of said terminal element has a curved shape at an end corner capable of conductively contacting with the corresponding terminal element 27 of the counterpart connector at a plurality of points simultaneously, and wherein said fitting portion of said body includes a protruding support surface along which said contact section of said terminal element is securely supported.

As to claim 8, Miyazaki shows a connector 2 comprising a plurality of terminal elements 27 respectively including lead sections 29 connectable with a circuit board (not shown) and contact sections 273 capable of coming into conductive contact with corresponding terminal elements of a counterpart connector; and an electrically insulating body 21 for supporting said plurality of terminal elements while exposing said lead sections and said contact sections, the body including a fitting portion capable of fitting to the counterpart connector while positioning said contact sections of said terminal elements with respect to the corresponding terminal elements, each of said contact sections of said plurality of terminal elements includes a first contact point 273a fixedly arranged on said fitting portion and a second contact point (not labeled)

spaced to be oppositely facing said first contact point in an elastically displaceable manner, the plurality of terminal elements are disposed on said fitting portion in a parallel arrangement with said contact sections being alternately reversed, in such a manner that among two terminal elements arranged side-by-side, said first contact point of one terminal element is aligned with said second contact point of the other terminal element.

As to claim 9, Miyazaki shows a connector system comprising a connector a connector according to claims 1 and 8.

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 3-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miyazaki (7220146).

As to claim 3, to form the body to include a first support member 1 having said fitting portion and supporting said terminal element, and a second support member 2 having a bearing surface facing said conductor-connecting section of said terminal element supported on said first support member and supporting the wire while positioning the conductor on said bearing surface, said first support member and said second support member being combined together in such a manner as to dispose said conductor between said conductor-connecting section and said surface would have been obvious of reversal parts.

As to claim 4, Miyazaki shows said abutting member includes a pressing surface acting to press said conductor-connecting section of said terminal element supported on said first support member toward said bearing surface of said second support member, when said abutting member is assembled with said body.

As to claim 5, Miyazaki shows a first shield member incorporated in said second support member and a second shield member incorporated in said abutting member in such a manner as to come into conductive contact with said first shield member, said first and second shield members being arranged at a position substantially surrounding said conductor-connecting section of said terminal element and the conductor of the wire in a non-contacting manner.

As to claim 6, Miyazaki shows the wire is a coaxial cable, and wherein said first and second shield members 9,19 are capable of being electrically connected to a shielding of the coaxial cable supported on said second support member.

7. Ko, Matsuoka, Yagi et al, Hashiguchi et al, Pabst et al and Saito et al are cited for disclosure of flexible cable connectors.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Hien D. Vu at telephone number 571-272-2016.

HV

7/22/07



HIEN VU
PRIMARY EXAMINER